

AltaMed

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September 16, 2004

Sent Via Facsimile: 916-445-4633

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose Elimination of Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs
As Recommended Under California Performance Review

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf AltaMed Health Services Corporation, I strongly urge you to reject the California Performance Review's (CPR) recommendation to abolish the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) Affairs.

The CPR proposal to abolish the Commission offers no value or fiscal benefit to the state. The Commission does not receive any state funding and is supported entirely by private sources. Established in 2002, the Commission consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor and Legislature, and is charged with advising the Governor, Legislature, state agencies, departments, and commissions on issues relating to the social and economic development, and the rights and interests of California's Asian Pacific Islander communities.

One of the CPR's goals is to increase government's accountability and responsiveness to California's residents. The APIA Commission enables our community to hold California government accountable to us. We fought to have this commission established because issues regarding our communities' culture, language, well-being and history were not being adequately represented in California's regulatory and legislative processes. The APIA Commission serves as a statewide voice to bring forward these concerns and issues to policy makers. By doing such, elected officials and government agencies can be more accountable and responsive to the APIA community.

The CPR recommends the elimination of the Commission and the transfer of its responsibilities to a newly formed Governor's Office of Community Affairs so it can be "directly accountable to the Governor for the success or failure of the programs operated by these separate agencies." The APIA Commission does not administer any state programs but serves as an independent advisory body to the Governor, Legislature, and other state entities. The Commission's function is to bring together API leaders from different vocations, backgrounds, and regions of the State to give an impartial assessment of the needs of our community. The commissioners provide the Governor and Legislature unfiltered feedback about community needs that might otherwise never reach

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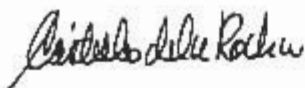
AltaMed Health Services Corporation
CORPORATE OFFICES

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Sacramento. The establishment of a Governor's Office of Community Affairs to create focal point for access is a positive concept that could increase access for the state's many diverse communities. However, the office can compliment but not replace a commission whose role is to independently advise the Governor and Legislature. Furthermore, the creation of an Office of Community Affairs would require a significant number of staff to adequately serve the many diverse communities, greatly outweighing the costs of the existing Commission.

We worked hard to establish the Commission on APIA Affairs so that our community's voice could be better heard in Sacramento. Please help us make California government more accountable to our community. I urge you to reject the CPR proposal. Please feel free to contact me at (323) 889-7310 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Cástulo de la Rocha, J.D.
President and CEO

cc: Pam Chueh, California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus 916-319-3628 (Fx)